

NATIONAL TRANSPORTATION SAFETY BOARD  
VERBATIM TRANSCRIPT OF INTERVIEW WITH CDR WADDLE

CONDUCTED AT COMMANDER, SUBMARINE SQUADRON 1 CONFERENCE  
ROOM, 822 CLARK STREET, BUILDING 661, PEARL HARBOR,  
HAWAII

ON 17 FEBRUARY 2001

MR. ROTH-ROFFY: The time is now 1725. The day is the  
17th of February 2001. We are here to interview  
Commander Waddle of the USS GREENEVILLE. Good afternoon,  
sir.

WIT: Good afternoon.

MR. ROTH-ROFFY: My name is Tom Roth-Roffy, and I'm with  
accident investigation with the National Transportation  
Safety Board. I and several other safety board  
investigators are here to investigate the accident that  
occurred between the USS GREENEVILLE and the fishing  
vessel, EHIME MARU, on February 9th, 2001. For your  
information the National Transportation Safety Board is a  
U.S. Federal Government Agency responsible for  
investigating transportation accidents in the United  
States. The Safety Board's Office of Marine's Safety of  
which I am an employee is responsible for investigating  
major marine accidents that occur on the waterways in the  
United States. The purpose of the safety board's  
investigation is to determine the cause of the accident  
and to make recommendations aimed at preventing future  
re-occurrences of similar accidents. In our  
investigation we make no effort to assign blame for the  
accident nor do we have any legal authority to penalize  
any person involved in the accident. Our investigation  
is strictly a safety investigation and not a legal  
investigation. If you desire you may have another person  
assist you during the interview. Would you like to have  
somebody assist you with this interview or do you feel  
you can make it through on your own.

WIT: My counsel is present.

MR. ROTH-ROFFY: Okay, please identify yourself Ma'am.

CDR HEROLD: My name is Commander Jennifer Herold. I'm a  
commander in the Jag Corps of the United States Navy.

MR. ROTH-ROFFY: Welcome. Also joining me in this interview will be those seated here at this table. Persons joining me are representatives of the United States Coast Guard and United States Navy and I would ask that now that each of you introduce yourselves.

MR. WOODY: Bill Woody, NTSB.

MR. STRAUCH: I'm Barry Strauch with NTSB.

LT JOHNSON: Lieutenant Charlie Johnson U.S. Coast Guard.

LT(jg)KUSANO: Lieutenant(jg) Ken Kusano, U.S. Coast Guard.

CAPT SCHEFFER: Jim Scheffer, NTSB.

CAPT KYLE: Captain Tom Kyle, U.S. Navy.

CDR CACCIVIO: Commander John Caccivio from the U.S. Navy.

MR. ROTH-ROFFY: With that Captain, I would like to ask you to describe the events that occurred on Friday morning, February 9th, 2001 to the best of your recollection.

WIT: Okay, again my name is Commander Scott Waddle, I'm the former Commanding Officer. I'm no longer the Captain of the vessel----

MR. ROTH-ROFFY: ----sorry--

WIT: ----my rank is commander. I'm not a member of the USS GREENEVILLE crew any longer. I have been temporarily reassigned to the staff at COMSUBPAC.

MR. ROTH-ROFFY: Thank you for that correction, sir.

WIT: I intend to cooperate with NTSB and provide you with the best information possible that I know to be true, but at this time, based on the recommendation of my counsel, pending the outcome of the court of inquiry, I decline to make an official statement for the public record until such a time my counsel deems its prudent to do so. I am, however comfortable in answering questions

35 through 44, revision 1 of the questions list that was provided regarding search and rescue efforts and I will do so in writing once I have the opportunity to provide my counsel an opportunity to review this data--this question--or these questions I should say. I do so at a time that is convenient.

MR. ROTH-ROFFY: Okay, that's understood sir. Um--does anybody at this interviewing table have any questions or comments to make at this time?

MR. STRAUCH: I'm Barry Strauch. I'd like to thank ah--thank you, sir, for responding to our request for fitness reports ah--if you were in a--if you had access to fitness reports that went back several years earlier, we appreciated that also and any other information similar to this that you think could help our investigation we ask you supply that if possible.

CDR HEROLD: We--My client and I have discussed--this is CDR Jennifer Herold--my client and I discussed providing ah--fitness reports prior to his taking command of the USS GREENEVILLE and determined that those weren't relevant. Ah--he went through a screening process in the United States Navy to screen for command. Once he achieved command, we provided the fitness reports since he was in command.

MR. STRAUCH: Okay.

MR. ROTH-ROFFY: Anybody else have any comments or questions. CDR Waddle, thank you again for coming down and we would certainly expect and hope that you would be able to answer some further questions that would be regarding the accident and helping us in our investigation to understand what actually happened, because as you know as I mentioned, our interest is in the public safety of the people of the United States on our waterways and it is very important that we understand--you know--the full--all the facts surrounding the accident.

WIT: Again this is Commander Waddle. I understand your concern and I fully intend to cooperate. I think it has been made perfectly clear both on national television based on comments and direct observations from one of the two civilians that were identified and came forward to

speak on the Today Show. As shortly after the accident, I met with those civilians and asked them be truthful, don't embellish any of the information that you recall. Maintain your utmost integrity and doing so you will be able to assist investigation in determining the root cause of the accident, so that the nine lives that were lost would not be in vain.

MR. ROTH-ROFFY: Yes, sir, thank you for that. Time being 11--correction 1731. That concludes our interview of Commander Waddle.